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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

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August 5, 2016

The Honorable Paul D. Ryan  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
S-230, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Ryan and Leader McConnell:

I urge you to work together to immediately reconvene the United States House and Senate, respectively, to address the looming shortage of funds for dealing with the local transmission of the Zika virus in South Florida via mosquito, and the continued amassing of travel-related Zika cases across the United States. I have been demanding an effective response from our federal government for months to ensure that we contain and eliminate this public health crisis. Yet, the most critical role for Congress to play in the federal government's response – appropriating an adequate and reliable stream of funding to support impacted states and local communities – has been caught up in protracted political battles.

As you may know, I voted in favor of the \$1.1 billion dollar Zika supplemental funding package contained in the conference report to H.R. 2577, while opposing an inadequate \$600 million in Zika funding included in H.R. 5243, the Zika Response Appropriations Act, and I remain committed to finding a solution to this impasse. My home state of Florida, and the residents of South Florida, in particular, can no longer afford to wait on behalf of political posturing by either party. I urge you to immediately reconvene the House and Senate at once to pass a robust, stand-alone Zika funding bill that fulfills the President's \$1.9 billion request.

Sincerely,

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen  
Member of Congress